

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 SIL-01 EB-11 LAB-06 COME-00

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DRAFTED BY JGSULLIVAN:ARA-LA/CEN:GPHILLIPS, LA/MRSD
SEPTEMBER 14, 1973 EXTENSION 22180
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TO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 183615

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: ELAB CS
SUBJECT:PTTI INVOLVEMENT IN SITET LABOR DISPUTE
REF: SAN JOSE 3243, SAN JOSE 3021, STATE 178731,
STATE 171076

1. MEETING REQUESTED BY ARA/LA OFFICERS IN ACCORDANCE REF4
HELD WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF AIFLD AND PTTI (LEGGE AND
MOORE) ON SEPTEMBER 11. REGRET SAN JOSE 3243 WAS NOT
RECEIVED UNTIL SEPTEMBER 12.

2. AT OUR REQUEST, MOORE REVIEWED SITET SITUATION AS OF
HIS DEPARTURE FROM COSTA RICA SEPTEMBER 8. HE POINTED OUT
THAT PTTI COULD NOT WITHDRAW FROM ITS ADVISORY ROLE IN
SITET DISPUTE WHEN GOING GOT TOUGH WITHOUT LOSING ITS
CREDIBILITY. MOORE SAID HE HAD TAKEN PAINS TO KEEP THE
EMBASSY FULLY INFORMED OF HIS ACTIVITIES. LEGGE, AGGRES-
SIVELY PROCLAIMED PTTI INDEPENDENCE IN THAT PTTI GEARS ITS
ACTION IN ANY GIVEN SITUATION ON WHAT BEST SERVES INTEREST
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OF PTTI AND ITS AFFILIATES. HE SAID THE COSTA RICANS HAD

COME TO MOORE FOR ADVICE BECAUSE OF MOORE'S BACKGROUND AND PERSONAL REPUTATION AND THAT MOORE IS EXPECTED TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE IN RESPONSE TO SUCH REQUESTS. LEGGE ADDED THAT PTTI WOULD PREFER NOT TO CAUSE DIFFICULTIES FOR USG OR EMBASSY BUT HE MADE CLEAR THAT PTTI PUTS FURTHERANCE OF ITS OBJECTIVES AND THOSE OF ITS AFFILIATES BEFORE USG

DIPLOMATIC INTERESTS.

3. THERE WAS AGREEMENT THAT IN THE MAJORITY OF CASES, PTTI AND USG INTERESTS COINCIDE. WE POINTED OUT THAT IN THOSE CASES WHERE SOME SUBSTANTIVE OR TACTICAL DIFFERENCE DID EXIST, AS IN THE CURRENT CASE, THE USG MAY BECOME IDENTIFIED IN EYES OF ACTORS AND OBSERVERS ON THE SCENE WITH THE ACTIONS AND POLICIES PURSUED BY ITS REPRESENTATIVES. WHEN USG FUNDS ARE INVOLVED, THEN USG IS IN AN EVEN MORE VULNERABLE POSITION. THUS, WE CONTINUED, PTTI SHOULD BE AWARE THAT INDEPENDENCE OF ITS STANCE MAY BE APPARENT TO PTTI AND US, BUT THAT ITS ACTIONS DO REFLECT ON OUR EMBASSIES AND AFFECT ATTITUDES WHICH HAVE A BEARING ON USG RELATIONS WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES. LEGGE RETORTED THAT PTTI SEES ITS ROLE IN COSTA RICA AS THAT OF DEVELOPING LOCAL UNIONS WHICH REQUEST ASSISTANCE. MOORE POINTED OUT THAT AS PTTI REPRESENTATIVE HE DID NOT WISH TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON HIMSELF AND WOULD NOT, FOR EXAMPLE, ISSUE PRESS RELEASES OR TALK TO THE PRESS. HE WOULD, HOWEVER, TAKE AN ACTIVE ROLE AS ONE OF THE ADVISORS TO SITET IN ITS MEETINGS ON THE SAME BASIS AS SITET'S COSTA RICAN LEGAL ADVISOR AND ECONOMIC ADVISOR.

4. ON THE LARGER ISSUE OF HOW PTTI'S ACTIONS MIGHT REFLECT UPON U.S. EMBASSIES AND ON U.S. RELATIONS, LEGGE MADE CLEAR THAT THIS WAS IN GREAT MEASURE A MATTER OF PERCEPTION. THOSE WHO LOOK INVIDIOUSLY ON PTTI SUPPORT OF SITET ARE THOSE WITH OPPOSING INTERESTS SUCH AS BUSINESSMEN, AND CERTAIN OFFICIALS AND JOURNALISTS. MOORE POINTED OUT THAT THE LABOR MINISTER RECOGNIZED AND ACCEPTED THE PTTI ROLE IN THIS DISPUTE. IN ANY EVENT, LEGGE SAID HE DID NOT GIVE GREAT WEIGHT TO THE CURRENT MONTHLY PAYMENT OUT OF AID/AIFLD GRANT FUNDS TO NUNEZ, CONFIDENTIAL

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AND SAID HE COULD EASILY GET ALONG WITHOUT SUCH PAYMENTS. (FYI - SUBSEQUENT INFORMAL CONVERSATIONS WITH AIFLD INDICATE THAT IN THE FUTURE USG FUNDS WILL NOT REPEAT NOT BE USED FOR SUBSIDY TO NUNEZ AND THAT PAYMENTS ALREADY MADE TO NUNEZ WILL BE REFUNDED.)

5. ASKED ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR SETTLEMENT NOW THAT FIGUERES WILL MEDIATE, MOORE WAS OPTIMISTIC - ALTHOUGH HE

FELT THE LABOR MINISTER AND ICE BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAD
WORKED THEMSELVES INTO UNCOMPRISING POSITIONS WHICH MADE
REACHING A SOLUTION THAT MUCH MORE DIFFICULT. HE OPINED
THAT SOME RESIGNATIONS MIGHT BE NECESSARY. MOORE FELT
THAT A CHANGE IN THE ICE BOARD WOULD PERMIT MEANINGFUL

NEGOTIATIONS TOWARD SETTLEMENT OF OTHER SITET GRIEVANCES.
HE BELIEVED THAT RANK AND FILE IN THIS CASE WERE MORE
READY TO STRIKE THAN SITET LEADERSHIP. GDS
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